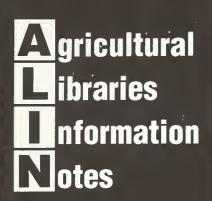
Historic, Archive Document

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U.S. Department of Agriculture Beltsville, MD 20705

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Regarding the FY 1990 Appropriations for the National Agricultural Library

Testimony of John W. Beecher Director of Libraries North Dakota State University Fargo, North Dakota 58105

Presented to
The Honorable Quentin N. Burdick
Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, and Related Agencies,
Senate Committee on Appropriations

April 21, 1989

I am John W. Beecher, Director of Libraries at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. I am also Vice President/President Elect of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN). I am writing to support the budget request of \$16,917,000 for the National Agricultural Library (NAL) for Fiscal Year 1990 and the restoration, yet this fiscal year, of the \$1,000,000 inadvertently omitted from the approved FY89 budget.

The United States Agricultural Information Network is a nascent organization being formed by individuals dedicated to broadening access to the national information resource base--in all formats--relevant to agricultural research, education, and applied agriculture. The objectives of the network include: to provide a forum for discussion of agricultural information issues (especially those relating to information collection, organization, and access): to take a leadership role in the formation of a national information policy as related to agriculture; and to make recommendations to the National Agricultural Library on agricultural information matters.

To accomplish these expectations, the network is committed to strengthening agricultural libraries and information services throughout the United States "while minimizing wasteful duplication of effort and resources." USAIN will strive to ensure the fullest possible sharing of information and library materials in the most cost-effective manner. The network will promote and assist efforts by the cooperating agencies to:

determine the availability and location of resources;
 develop and implement resource sharing agreements;

3) explore the potentials of shared collection development programs; and

4) maintain and preserve present and future resources.

The success of these efforts will ensure equality of access and availability

of resources for agricultural information users across the nation.

The United States Agricultural Information Network is the first organization developed specifically to provide a national forum through which agricultural librarians might address the many issues associated with the collection, access, and delivery of agricultural information in the 1990's. The National Agricultural Library is of supreme importance to this new organization. The NAL has been instrumental in its formation and anticipates working in partnership with USAIN for the development and the support of a national agricultural information network. For these reasons, network members have an intense interest in NAL's programs and budget, which will impact directly-both now and in the future--on the level of support NAL can furnish to those who need and use agricultural information. Therefore, I strongly support NAL's request for \$16,917,000 of appropriated funds for fiscal year 1990. I specifically support the requested programmatic increases of: \$250,000 to

create a Water Quality and Quantity Information Center; \$100,000 to strengthen NAL's Biotechnology Information Center; \$250,000 to provide additional funding for the acquisition of materials (especially foreign journal titles); and \$277,000 to expand networking and related training. To achieve its full potential and to lead among agricultural libraries, the National Agricultural Library will require additional resources in subsequent years to systematically enhance networking capabilities.

We have all heard a great deal about the growth of literature, the "information explosion." A related aspect of the problem is the dispersion or scattering of the literature. The more a particular subfield of science grows the more fragmented the literature is likely to become. Hence, the need for insuring efficient and effective access to a broad range of information resources through cooperative efforts by the nation's libraries. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has been actively engaged in such cooperative efforts for a number of years. The NLM provides networking prototypes which will undoubtedly serve as useful working models for USAIN to study and adapt in the near future. As a beginning, the National Agricultural Library has negotiated cooperative collection development agreements with the NLM in the fields of veterinary science and nutrition, and is currently negotiating biotechnology and animal welfare. Such cooperative collection development agreements provide users optimal access to information in a particular field or subfield of study, but avoid unnecessary duplication of expensive resources and the associated bibliographic organization and storage costs.

Although access to the growing national agricultural information resource base may be greatly enhanced by the use of modern telecommunication systems, it is important to understand that the USAIN concept of networking involves more than the application of modern technologies to the delivery of requested information. The potential of networking, as viewed by those of us directly involved in establishing USAIN, includes shared collection development commitments, shared responsibilities for organization and storage of information, collaborative projects utilizing new technologies, the training necessary to utilize most effectively these technologies, and shared responsibilities for providing effective access to the total body of information resources.

The scope of agricultural literature must be given a broad interpretation in this instance to include fields of study such as human nutrition, biotechnology, ecology, rural development, natural resources, and foreign trade. The libraries of the 69 land-grant colleges and universities, the many state supported agricultural, forestry, and veterinary colleges, as well as special libraries associated with agribusiness and industry, cover the agricultural and related literature in depth. Many have specialized collections and collection emphases which cannot be matched in any other library. It has long been clear that cooperation in collection building and service delivery among academic, agribusiness, and government-agency libraries would stretch the combined resources to go farther and do a better job, nationally and globally. However, cooperation itself costs money. Additional support for networking in NAL's budget over the next several years could bring manifold benefits to the nation's--and the

world's--agricultural community.

The "Blue Ribbon Panel" report of 1982 noted that "NAL has not developed an overall network plan and, for the most part, efforts to establish a network structure and programs have been fragmented."² It recommended that "additional resources be provided to develop a national network from which services can be increased and resources shared." Since the time of the Panel report, the administration of the NAL has initiated, developed, and expanded a large number of cooperative programs. These include cataloging arrangements with over 30 land-grant libraries; indexing programs with the University of Arizona Arid Lands Information Center and the University of Georgia; microfilming of state publications; document delivery for USDA employees; training and internship programs; preparation of information products; and research on information technology applications. This latter includes a telefacsimile study, use of laser media for storage and retrieval of full text, and a significant project for automatic digitizing of page images and coding of full text, to which 42 land-grant libraries have committed funding. North Dakota State University is one of the libraries participating as a test site for NAL's text digitizing project. About two weeks ago we received a pilot CD-ROM disc, Aquaculture I. This full-text database consists of 62 publications, including books, technical reports, bibliographies, leaflets, bulletins, journal articles, etc., containing approximately 4060 pages of material published by the U.S. Government. I was a bit dubious about testing an aquaculture database in North Dakota; however, the head of reference used the disc the second day it was available to answer a question about Malaysian prawns! The user was quite impressed, and the head of reference was delighted that he had ready access to such a resource. All of this proves, once again, that we must never underestimate the importance of access to a broad range of subject materials--in varying formats and from diverse sources--to most effectively meet the users' agricultural information needs.

The National Agricultural Library's predicament in FY90 is both unusual and unfortunate. Funding requests for FY89, approved by conferees from both houses of Congress, were largely wiped out by a typographical error, resulting in a discrepancy of \$1,000,000 between the fiscal 1989 appropriations Conference Report of the Department of Agriculture and the enrolled bill that was signed by the President. This error will significantly reduce or eliminate funding of various programmatic increases planned and anticipated by the NAL and its users. These include development of the agricultural information network (USAIN) and expansion of several information centers, including one focused on rural development (the Rural Information Center) and another on technology transfer (the Technology Transfer Information Center). It is my understanding that if this error is not corrected, these previously approved increases will have to be considered a second time, in competition with new increases requested by NAL. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the \$1,000,000 be restored this fiscal year.

Moreover, additional monies for networking and training will be necessary in future years. In the best of circumstances, the needs and opportunities for making agricultural related information more useful to researchers and educators far exceed the increases NAL has received in its appropriations, even though the impact of these funds has been multiplied by NAL's extensive cooperative efforts noted above.

The National Agricultural Library is a national information resource to which others look for leadership. The NAL, working jointly with land-grant and other specialized agricultural libraries and information centers, will make available access to the nation's agricultural information resources. To strengthen the National Agricultural Library is to strengthen all members of the agricultural information community and their impact on the nation's economic well-being.

Footnotes

¹ National Agricultural Library. National Agricultural Library and Information Network: Outline of a Plan. Beltsville, 1987, p. 2.

² Assessment of the National Agricultural Library - Final Report to the Secretary. Prepared by the Interagency Panel on the NAL. (Washington, D.C.) U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Science and Education, 1982, p. x.

³ Ibid.

John W. Beecher



John W. Beecher

John W. Beecher, the author of the testimony to Congress presented as the lead article in this issue of ALIN, is Director of Libraries at North Dakota State University, in Fargo. Prior to assuming his current position in September 1986, he had been Head of Public Services, St. Paul Campus Libraries of the University of Minnesota. He also served in a variety of other public and technical services positions at the University of Minnesota, University of Illinois, New

Mexico State University, Texas Christian University, and with the Peace Corps in Paraguay, after earning his MLS (1966) and the BS in Ornamental Horticulture (1964) at the University of Illinois.

Mr. Beecher is active in professional library associations at the local, national, and international levels, and has published articles in their professional journals. Among his recent presentations were *International Library Networking Architecture...* at the national conference "Librarians and In-

ternational Development" at Washington State University, Pullman, May 1987, and Planning Beyond System Implementation for the Functional Integration of Library Services, Organizational Structure, and Personnel at the MINITEX/OCLC Users Groups Meeting at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, May 1988.

Mr. Beecher is currently Vice-President/President Elect of the United States Agricultural Information Network, and in this role he is providing valuable support and advice to NAL and the national and international agricultural library communities.



NAL Issues Proposal on Preservation of Plant Exploration Photographs

The National Agricultural Library recently issued a proposal seeking funding for the preservation of a unique collection of historical photographs relating to plant exploration and introduction. In 1989 the U.S. National Arboretum transferred to NAL an outstanding documentary photograph collection of 100,000 images from the Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction Service (FSPIS), part of the old USDA Bureau of Plant Industry. The collection originated in the early 1900's with the work of renowned plant explorers and collectors David Fairchild, Frank N. Meyer, P. Howard Dorsett, Albert Spear Hitchcock, and many others. It provides visual and written records documenting their trips through China, Siberia, Turkestan, Manchuria, Mongolia, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America from 1905 to 1935. Meyer's 2,500 plant introductions have changed the landscape and improved the economy of the United States. Today, researchers are still using the genes his introductions added to America's crop germplasm in order to produce better grains, fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. This collection has substantial value for today's plant explorers and breeders who need access to past plant exploration visual documentation to compare with plant specimens and to help identify new and unique plant species that may contribute substantially to our economic welfare.

Subject coverage includes, not only plant identification, but also animals; people, including portraits; cities and buildings, including research stations; transportation; landscapes; agricultural and scientific equipment; and the commercial fruit industry.

The collection of silver nitrate negatives, acetate safety negatives, glass plate negatives, and paper contact prints is extremely fragile and in an embrittled state, not suitable for handling by researchers. Building on its successes with two previous photo laser disk preservation projects, NAL is seeking support to prepare archival copies of the original images and to scan them onto an optical laser disk for use with a companion database. Valuable documentary information about each photograph, now on 4 x 6 cards, would become the core of the database finding aid, providing electronic access by photographer, geographic area, subject matter, caption, date and other parameters.

To demonstrate the plight of this rapidly deteriorating collection and to provide a project overview, NAL has prepared a ten minute videotape which has been distributed, along with the proposal, to several Federal agencies, landgrant libraries, professional and trade associations, private businesses, and foundations. NAL is actively seeking help in identifying other potential sources of funding and will lend the videotape for preview to those interested.

Questions and information about the proposal should be directed to:

Alan Fusonie Head of Special Collections National Agricultural Library 10301 Baltimore Boulevard Beltsville, MD 20705.

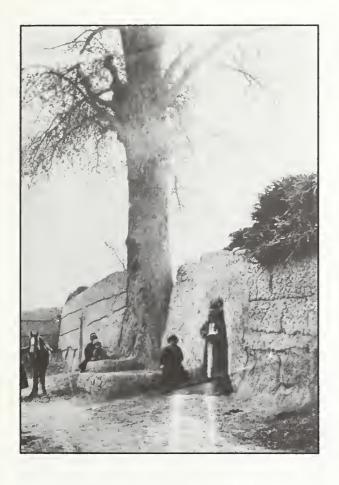
Or call: (301) 344-3876.

--Elizabeth Goldberg

The photographs on the next page were taken by the famous plant explorer, Frank N. Meyer, in Chinese Turkestan early in this century. The upper photograph is of *Populus pruimosa*, and was taken near Yarkand. Negative No. 5639. The lower photograph is of *Salix sp.*, and was taken at Khanaku. Negative No. 5640. Both are on nitrate film held by NAL's Special Collections, and are part of the FSPIS collection transferred from the U.S. National Arboretum. The group photo below is from a glass negative; these, along with the negatives of the two photos on the last page of this issue of *ALIN*, are part of the collection NAL seeks to preserve. (See article beginning on page 3.)



photo: FSPIS Collection, NAL Special Collections
Office Staff, Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction Service, October 1, 1913. On the right end of the group is the famous plant explorer and head
of the service, David Grandison Fairchild. At the right of the front row is another famous plant explorer, Beverly Thomas Galloway. The
photograph by P. Bisset was taken on Roof 220, 14th Street, S.W., Washington, DC. [Note the Washington Monument and the tower of the
Auditor's Building in the background.] Negative No. 15728.







AGRICOLA

AGRICOLA Enriched by Land-Grant Participation

by Sarah E. Thomas Chief, Technical Services Division

The NAL/Land-Grant University Library State Agricultural Publications Program continues to thrive. The State Publications Program, as it is known informally at NAL, was initiated in 1984 and has grown to encompass 47 participating libraries. Land-grant university and college libraries cooperate with NAL in providing better access to state agricultural publications issued in their respective states through aggressive acquisition policies, priority cataloging, and document delivery.

Almost weekly, NAL's Technical Service Division receives correspondence from a land-grant library advising NAL on the progress of the land-grant's bibliographic control efforts. The four most recent communications are representative of the widespread interest and commitment to

the program.

In February, Harold B. Shill, Librarian of the Evansdale Library of West Virginia University, wrote to inquire about the contributions his institution might make to the program. He concluded his letter with the welcome words, "I would like to see WVU contributing more actively to the bibliographic control and network efforts NAL is coordinating."

With Shill's expression of support, the State Publications Program added another library to its roster of participants, leaving only five states unrepresented. Despite the staff shortages and scarcity of resources facing West Virginia University, Shill found his way clear to join other land-grant libraries, many grappling with similar concerns, because he realized that by working together, a strong and useful network could be built.

NAL's request to update the list of state agricultural documents was distributed in July 1988; the result has been receipt of many letters. Nathaniel Puffer's letter of March 9 is typical of several recent exchanges. Puffer, Assistant Director of Libraries for Collection Management at the University of Delaware, noted:

"You requested a list of the series currently being published. Much of the agricultural publishing being done is coming out of various offices of the University of Delaware. There is no central office from which information can be garnered. Many titles in a series will be issued by different offices and only can be obtained from those offices. This peculiar situation is particularly true of publications from the Agricultural Experiment Station and the

Cooperative Extension Service. The attached list reflects this bizarre situation in that the same series title may be listed under two or three originating sources.

"We are having some difficulty identifying who is publishing what and even the issuing offices aren't always sure what is being published either!"

Multiply Mr. Puffer's problem many times over, and you can get a good indication of the challenges facing those attempting to provide bibliographic control and better access to these valuable agricultural documents. By making a concerted effort, however, librarians can make some inroads into this confusing state of affairs.

Susan Stewart, Life & Health/Physical Science Librarian at the University of Nevada-Reno, encountered much the same situation as Mr. Puffer. When returning the list of Nevada state agricultural documents to NAL on March 21, 1989, Ms. Stewart offered several clarifications, including the remark that "these reflect only our holdings of these publications. I believe they are the most complete in the state, but since there is no 'official' record of all the publications this is all there is!"

Like Mr. Puffer, Ms. Stewart had also contacted various sources for the agricultural publications, and she had arranged to get NAL added to the mailing list for appropriate documents. Both the University of Delaware and the University of Nevada-Reno will be cataloging state documents, including titles not previously analyzed.

At the NAL Open House in January, Donna Hanson, Science Librarian at the University of Idaho, contacted Claudia Weston, Acting Assistant to the Chief, Technical Services Division, about the State Agricultural Publications Program. Using NAL's list of publications as a point of departure, Ms. Hanson researched Idaho's holdings. In March, Ms. Hanson wrote to Ms. Weston updating NAL on her findings. Ms. Hanson intends to talk to appropriate staff members at the Idaho State Library and at the State Department of Agriculture in order to obtain copies of documents for NAL's collections and to fill in some gaps discovered in Idaho's collection.

Since the University of Idaho contributes its cataloging to WLN (Western Library Network), NAL has not been able to use Idaho's cataloging records directly. Idaho has now developed an experimental procedure whereby a diskette containing cataloging records for theses on agricultural subjects will be sent to NAL. Mary Bolin, Idaho's Head of Cataloging, hopes to be able to download similar information for agriculturally related monographs and series entries. NAL will process these records for inclusion in AGRICOLA, thereby making the coverage of state agricultural publications in the database even more comprehensive.

Land-grant university librarians are banding together to create an effective network of agricultural information specialists. Particularly successful is the State Agricultural Publications Program, which continues to grow and prosper. For NAL staff, who have worked hard to coordinate the program, the enthusiastic response from the land-grant institutions is very gratifying.

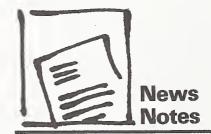
NAL staff will meet with land-grant representatives at ALA in Dallas in June to discuss future developments and to review the progress of the past year. Details on the up-

coming meeting will be mailed to land-grant directors and State Agricultural Publications Program contacts in late May.

MIT Agricultural Dissertations in AGRICOLA

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries and the National Agricultural Library have agreed to procedures that will result in the listing of records for appropriate MIT dissertations in AGRICOLA, NAL'S online database of over 2.6 million records of books, reports, journal articles, and items in other media. MIT, a land-grant university, has a number of students graduating each year who have written dissertations in agriculturally related fields such as food technology or agricultural economics. Under the direction of Carol Fleishauer, MIT's Associate Director for Collection Management and Technical Services, MIT catalogs dissertations and theses using OCLC. NAL Acquisitions and Serials Branch staff will select titles from MIT commencement programs, and its Cataloging Branch will process the titles for AGRICOLA, using a modification of routines devised for the NAL/Land-Grant Cooperative Cataloging Program. The inclusion of MIT theses and dissertations in AGRICOLA is especially valuable to researchers as MIT dissertations are not submitted to UMI's Dissertation Abstracts. Thus AGRICOLA becomes more comprehensive in its coverage, and MIT is able to disseminate information about its research through the leading U.S. agricultural database. AGRICOLA users seeking access to the MIT dissertations will be referred to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries for document delivery.

--Sarah E. Thomas



NAL Schedule of Activities at SLA and ALA Meetings

Staff of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) will host several meetings at the annual conferences of both the Special Libraries Association in New York, June 11-15, 1989, and the American Library Association in Dallas, June 24-29, 1989. The list of these scheduled meetings with contacts for further information follows below.

The traditional briefing on National Agricultural Library programs and activities will be held in conjunction with the meetings of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) at both conferences.

The Library will also have exhibits at both meetings featuring resource displays of the latest products and services. NAL staff will be waiting to greet you in the Exhibit Hall in Booth 551 at SLA and in Booth 398A at ALA.

In addition, at SLA, the Associates of NAL, Inc., NAL's friends group, will be hosting a dessert buffet cruise around Manhattan, Sunday, June 11, 1989, from 7:30-11:00 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For ticket information contact Patricia Endel, Executive Director, NAL Associates, 1529 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20007 Tel: (202) 333-5053. An Associates representative will also be available in the NAL Booth (No. 551) on Sunday, June 11.

Special Libraries Association Meetings

June 12: 2:30-4:00: RDDS (Regional Document Delivery Service), FAN Suite, Sheraton Center; NAL Contact: Veronica Lefebvre (301) 344-3503

June 12: 4:00-5:30: USAIN (United States Agricultural Information Network)/NAL Update, Sheraton Center, Regency Foyer; NAL Contact: Sarah Thomas (301) 344-3834

June 13: 10:15-11:30: ARS (Agricultural Research Service) Field Libraries, FAN Suite, Sheraton Center; NAL Contact: Peggy Beavers (301) 344-3834

American Library Association Meetings

June 23: 12:00-3:00: NATDP (National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project) Technical Advisory Committee; NAL Contact: Pamela Andre (301) 344-3813

June 26: 9:30-11:00: NATDP (National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project) Participants, Fairmont Hotel, State Room; NAL Contact: Pamela Andre (301) 344-3813

June 27: 9:30-11:00: RDDS (Regional Document Delivery Service), Holiday Inn Downtown, BR I; NAL Contact: Veronica Lefebvre (301) 344-3503

June 27: 2:00-4:00: USAIN (United States Agricultural Information Network) /NAL Update, Holiday Inn Downtown, BR II; NAL Contact: Sarah Thomas (301) 344-3834

June 27: 4:00-4:30: State Publications and Agricultural Publications Update, Holiday Inn Downtown, BR II; NAL Contact: Sarah Thomas (301) 344-3834

June 27: 4:30-5:30: Aquaculture Library Network Meet-

ing, Holiday Inn Downtown, BR II; NAL Contact: Deborah Hanfman (301) 344-3704

Date, Place, and Time To Be Announced: ARS (Agricultural Research Service) Field Libraries; NAL Contact: Peggy Beavers (301) 344-3834

-- Elizabeth Goldberg

ALF Gets New Software, Improves Features

NAL's electronic bulletin board, ALF (Agricultural Library Forum), has recently been improved and expanded. This Spring, the latest version of RBBS-PC, the bulletin board software system upon which ALF is running, was installed. Version 17.1D has several new features and enhancements of old ones which make using ALF faster and easier, and give the user more power.

Here is a brief list of some of the changes and new features. Remember also that there is H)elp available online from the prompt/command line. Just enter "h" to begin help.

The message system has many important new features. Text strings may be searched from the R)ead prompt. You may search for a name, word, or a string of characters and retrieve only messages containing the specified string. Message T)hreading is now allowed, giving the reader an automatic link to all messages with a specified subject entry. Reading only new L)ast messages as well as a selection of specific messages with T)o, F)rom, M)ine, is now expanded.

B)ulletin 9 contains detailed discussion of the M)essage subsystem. Logon and read/list/capture it as a reference.

"Subboard" conferences, with access to specialized bulletin groups, welcome screens and files, in addition to normal conference specific message bases are now a reality. NAL's Reference Branch is getting started with its own subboard/conference. The ISIS folks may also take advantage of this feature. New active conference additions include: SYSCORN--a public forum for philosophical/social comment relevant to agriculture; and WQ--a private USDA water quality task force group. An AGCD conference is provided, now listing messages on CD-ROM deterioration, and a very low cost new AGRICOLA/CD-ROM product offering. Conference mail and message information are provided for registered conference users at logon.

The files subsystem continues its evolution. We now have an operative menu for listing files by category. One may look at only SPECIAL Reference Briefs, only U)ploads, ANIMAL welfare, bulletin BOARDS, etc, etc. U)ploads are still possible, of course! Send us your gems, to share with others--files, programs, lists, bibliographies. Have you seen our EXPERT systems run-time module collection?

I hope to see your C)omments about ALF on the board! Please help us make the system useful to you by letting us know what you need. Usage of the board continues at a steady increase. A recent week showed 86 calls, 19 of these were not local. More than 3800 calls have been logged in the last year. The more I use this medium for communication, the more valuable I esteem it to be. With your input and participation the value will continue to increase!

-- Karl Schneider



Aquaculture

REGIS: Intelligent Documents on African Aquaculture

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the National Agricultural Library (NAL), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), recently launched a cooperative international project to help provide better access to information on aquaculture in Africa.

Called REGIS (REGional Information System for African Aquaculture), the system merges two popular technologies, hypermedia and expert systems, into a useful and an easy-to-access information retrieval system. The prototype, code named REGIS by FAO Fisheries Information Chief Robert R. Freeman, runs on a microcomputer and is available from the National Technical Information Service.

REGIS was developed using KnowledgePro software from Knowledge Garden, Inc. Using funds provided by FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), NAL contracted with two professors at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland to assist NAL staff member Deborah Hanfman in developing REGIS.

Hypermedia can be used by an expert to link terms or graphics within one or more documents, allowing a user to browse. Expert systems mimic some of the problem-solving abilities of human experts in a given field. Together hypermedia and expert systems provide structure, procedural control, and the ability to explore information.

The system contains the entire text of an "Aquaculture Regional Sector Survey for the Africa Region," compiled by the Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme, a joint project of FAO and the United Nations Development Programme. Text and graphics can be accessed through a "Table of Contents," individual country names, or species names. A map of Africa gives intelligent non-linear access to a multitude of information linked to a specific country. Names of aquaculture specialists active in Africa can be retrieved from a 25-page document in REGIS. An integrated "expert system" advises on both small and commercial scale aquaculture ventures, utilizing the expertise of Dr. Meryl Broussard, Extension Service, USDA.

A CD-ROM and online connection to REGIS provides fast intelligent access to hundreds of megabytes of citations to published information on aquaculture and fisheries around the world, contained in the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) database. A network of four United Nations agencies and eleven countries compile ASFA. It is produced by Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

Subscriptions are required for both online and CD-ROM access. The production and installation of the ASFA module for online and CD-ROM access was supported by Steven Tibbitt, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce.

"REGIS offers users a fresh and stimulating combination of approaches to learning and problem-solving," says Joseph Howard, Director of the National Agricultural Library. "Utilizing other cutting-edge information technology projects at NAL, the Library expects to build even greater power into similar agricultural applications."

Hardware Requirements

REGIS Full Version (seven modules) requires an IBM PC, XT, or AT compatible with a hard disk storage capacity of 1.5 megabytes. It requires 640 kilobytes of memory. It requires EGA graphics capability for access to graphics, and it requires a CD-ROM drive and modem for direct access to the ASFA database. A mouse is optional.

REGIS Abbreviated Version (five modules) requires an IBM PC, XT, or AT compatible with a hard disk storage capacity of 1 megabyte, and it requires 512 Kilobytes of memory. The abbreviated version does not contain graphics and omits the expert system and database modules. A mouse is optional.

Availability

REGIS may be ordered through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). For information contact: Kathy Thacker, NTIS, Federal Computer Products Center, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; Sales Desk (703) 487-4650.

REGIS Full Version:

Six 5-1/4" diskettes (360K); Order number: PB 89-170 385; Cost: \$49.95.

Or three 3-1/2" diskettes (720K); Order number: PB 89-170 328; Cost: \$49.95.

REGIS Abbreviated Version:

Three 5-1/4" diskettes (360K); Order number: PB 89-170 393; Cost: \$39.95.

Or two 3-1/2" diskettes (720K); Order number: PB 89-170 336; Cost: \$39.95

For More Information

NAL Contact: Deborah T. Hanfman or Eileen M. McVey, National Agricultural Library, Aquaculture Information Center, Room 304, Beltsville, MD 20705; Phone: (301)344-3704.

UN/FAO Contact in Rome Italy: Robert R. Freeman, Chief, Fishery Information Data and Statistics Service, FAO, Via delle Terme di Caracalla - 00100 Rome ITALY; Phone 57976414; FAX 6799563.

System Developers: Larry Bielawski (301)337-6344, or Robert Lewand (301)337-6239; Goucher College, Baltimore, MD 21204.

Knowledge Pro Software: Knowledge Garden Inc., President John Slade, 473A Malden Bridge Rd., RD#2, Nassau, NY 12123; Phone: (581)766-3000.

ASFA on CD-ROM: Compact Cambridge, Cambridge Information Group, 7200 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814; Phone: (800)843-7751; FAX 301-961-6720.

ASFA Online: DIALOG Information Services, Inc., 3460 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94304; Phone: (800)334-2564. --Deborah Hanfman



RIC Update

State Library Network

The Rural Information Center (RIC) is establishing a network with State Libraries with the cooperation and approval of the Rural Library Services Committee of the American Library Association. With regard to this venture, RIC recently contacted the state library directors in the thirty-eight states in which the RIC State Coordinators have established the RIC program. Other state library directors will be contacted as soon as the RIC Extension network is established in their states.

RIC is asking each library to name a representative from its staff to coordinate with RIC and Extension. The library representatives will assist Extension in locating at either the local or state level those information resources that were identified by RIC in response to requests from their respective states.

Fourteen states have already named State Library representatives for the RIC program, they are: Colorado, Maureen Crocker; Florida, Laura Hodges; Georgia, JoEllen Ostendorf; Iowa, Bill Cochran; Kansas, Mark Galbraith; Minnesota, Roger Sween; Mississippi, Sharman Smith; Missouri, Marlys Davis; New York, Mary Redmond; Oklahoma, Mary Hardin; Tennessee, Fran Schell; Utah, Edith Blankenship; Virginia, Linda Morrissett; and West Virginia, Donna Calvert.

RIC Assists Rural Economic Development

Vermont

A Morrisville Vermont County Extension Service agent contacted RIC in November 1987, concerning a handicapped small business client seeking a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant. He needed the names of some electrical contractors who build variable small speed DC motors for possible use on his special-

ized wheel chair invention. He had hit a dead end in obtaining this information, without which he could not complete his grant application.

RIC identified an appropriate contact organization and placed a call to the Small Motors Manufacturing Association and obtained the name of a key contact person. The contact provided the names of seven East Coast companies and agreed to act as a referral contact and provide technical assistance.

The Vermont businessman learned recently that this SBIR development grant request for \$45,000 was approved.

Virginia

A Virginia Extension Horticulturist requested funding sources in September 1988 for the development of an ornamental horticulture industry for southwestern Virginia counties. The objective of this project was to increase nursery stock in the Mid-Atlantic states, especially the Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D. C., corridor.

He had received some initial funding (less than \$10,000) from Tennessee Valley Authority programs the previous year.

RIC sent him federal program information, including TVA programs and private funding information. He applied to several programs and received \$40,000 funding from a TVA program identified by RIC.

The project set up 35 demonstration projects in 25 counties in Virginia. Three of the counties already have nursery stock growing in them as of April 1989. Future plans include setting up a cooperative of nurserymen.

RIC Wins First Place at World Ag Expo

The State Library of Iowa and RIC participated in a joint exhibit for rural economic development at the September 1988 World AG Expo in Amana, Iowa. The theme of the exhibit was "Library Country." More than 350,000 people at-



photo: Marlys Cresap Davis, Missouri State Library

The joint exhibit of the State Library of Iowa and the Rural Information Center of the National Agricultural Library which won first place at the World Ag Expo. From the left are Barb Moore of the Missouri State Library, Gerry Rowland of the State Library of Iowa, and Lily Lau of the East Central Regional Library System in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

tended the conference.

Bill Cochran, Director of Library Development at the State Library, coordinated the joint exhibit while Dan Otto, Iowa RIC State Coordinator, coordinated the RIC exhibit.

The joint project won first place in the Marketing/Community Relations category from the Iowa Library Friends Marketing for Excellence Program.

--Patricia L. John

Library System.

Former Iowan Marlys Davis and Barb Moore traveled to Amana from the Missouri State Library to staff "Library Country" and demonstrate the prototype of Missouri's new statewide CD-ROM database. John Christensen, Director of the Traverse Des Sioux Library System in Mankato, Minnesota, provided assistance in getting underway, helped staff the displays, and shared a variety of materials, including a well-received *Pigliography*.

--State Library of Iowa

THOUSANDS VISIT "LIBRARY COUNTRY" AT WORLD AG EXPO

More than 355,000 people attended the World Ag Expo in Amana, September 7-10, 1988, far exceeding organizers' expectations, and the thousands who visited "Library Country" included people from all over Iowa, at least 17 other states, and 5 foreign countries. "Library Country" was a cooperative effort of several midwestern library agencies to promote libraries to the large crowds at the Expo, emphasizing library services to agriculture, rural areas, and small towns.

Bill Cochran, Director of Library Development at the State Library of Iowa, conceived of the project and the "Library Country" theme, and coordinated planning with John Houlahan, Administrator of Northwest Regional Library System. The National Agricultural Library's Rural Information Center project joined with the State Library to sponsor an exhibit and tent space on the exhibit grounds.

Displays featured a variety of library programs and services offered by the agencies participating. The State Library demonstrated the Iowa Locator on equipment made available for the Expo by the Winfield Public Library, and showed videocassettes on agricultural, rural development, and literacy on equipment provided by Acting East Central Regional Library Administrator Lily Lau. Information was disseminated on both the "A Sense of Place: Small Towns, Community, And the Land" theme of the State Library's "Let's Talk About It" program and the Rural Reads adult book discussion group program developed by Steve Fosselman.

From the State Library of Iowa, Shirley George, Bill Cochran, and Gerry Rowland all helped to staff the displays, wearing green and white "Library Country" T-shirts and placing "Library Country" stickers on most of those who passed by. Joining them were Dan Otto, of Iowa State University and Iowa coordinator for the Rural Information Center project; John Houlahan of Northwest Regional Library System and "Library Country" coordinator for September 9-10; Katherine Von Wald and Lisa Hoyman of Central Iowa Regional Library System; Lily Lau of East Central Regional Library System; Mary Anne Smith and Jim Sixta of Northeastern Iowa Regional Library System; Emily Navarre and Vicki Hibbert of Southeastern Library Services; and Steve Fosselman of Southwest Iowa Regional



LC Network Advisory Committee

The Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee (NAC) held its spring meeting March 29-31, in Washington, D.C. The topic of the program session was entitled "The Extension of Networks Beyond Bibliographic Data." A number of speakers described a variety of projects in which nonbibliographic databases are made available through computer networks. Dr. Rudolph Bell, from Rutgers University, described a historical database containing tabular data. Dr. Charles Olsen, from the University of Michigan, discussed the use of remote sensing data in a variety of applications relating to urban development. Information from the public sector included census data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Library networks such as the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries are expending their database coverage to include marketing and business information.

Such broadening of the use of networks raises many issues related to identification, dissemination and standards. Over the next few months, members of NAC will be considering ways to define the scope of the problem and, hence, define their role in facilitating access to the many non-bibliographic resources now available.

--Pamela Andre



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Publications Exchange

SURPLUS PUBLICATIONS

The National Agricultural Library will make available the following surplus publications to any interested organization that regularly sends free publications to NAL, including most Federal, land-grant, and agricultural research institutions as well as many others. Foreign institutions will need to provide a U.S. mailing address or make other special arrangements with U.S. sources for shipment of material. Listed titles may be requested up to six months following announcement.

If interested, please enclose an addressed label with your request and write to:

National Agricultural Library Attn: Gift and Exchange/RF, Room 002 10301 Baltimore Boulevard Beltsville, MD 20705

Or call Ruth Finnblade, (301) 344-1207.

Agricultural and Food Chemistry. Vol. 3-14, 1955-66.

HortScience. Vol. 15-23, 1908-88.

Journal of Animal Science. Vol. 36-43, 1973-76; 51-52, 1980-81.

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Correction

The Associates of the National Agricultural Library thank the staff of *ALIN* for the article explaining our reorganization [15(4):10-11, 18, April 1989]. We would like to correct some factual information:

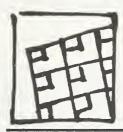
The Friends of the National Library of Medicine is an independent 501 (C) (3) organization. It is not managed by the NonProfit Management Associates.

As the Executive Director, I am an employee of the Associates of the National Agricultural Library.

If you have any questions concerning the Associates' organization or program, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Pat Endel (202) 333-5053



Agriculture Datebook

June 5-8: Northeastern Regional Assn. of State Ag Experiment Stations Workshop. Washington, D.C. Contact: (202) 786-3300.

June 6-8: Great Plains Agriculture Council Meeting. Lubbock, TX. Contact: (202) 786-3300.

June 7-8: Co-op Communicators Conference. Baraboo, WI. Contact: (202) 653-6976.

June 11-14: Canadian Society for Plant Molecular Biology Meeting. Calgary, Canada. Contact: L. Holbrooks, Biotechnica Canada Ltd., Calgary, Alta. Canada.

June 11-14: Tissue Culture Association Annual Meeting. Orlando, FL. Contact: Tissue Culture Association, 19110 Montgomery Village Avenue, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20879. (301) 869-2900.

June 12-14: Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership Meeting. Columbia, MO. Contact: (202) 653-6976.

June 12-14: International Turkey Reproduction Symposium. Raleigh, NC; Sheraton Imperial Hotel. Contact: Poultry Science Ext., NCSU, Box 7608, Raleigh, NC 27695.

June 12-15: General Federal of Women's Clubs Meeting. Tulsa, OK. Contact: (202) 347-3168.

June 19-23: 7th International Asparagus Symposium. Ferrara, Italy. Contact: A. Falavigna, Exp. Institute for Vegetable Crops, Via Paullese 28, I-20075 Montanaso Lomb., Italy.

June 29-July 1: North Central Region National Association of Farm Broadcasters Meeting. Sioux City, IA. Contact: Randy Rasmussen, KMNS, Sioux City, IA, (712) 258-0628.

June 30: 5th International Rubus/Ribes Symposium. Corvallis, OR. Contact: Dr. Hugh Daubney, Agriculture Canada Research Station, 6660 N.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1X2, Canada.

July 10-14: Fourth International Symposium of Plant Biosystematics. Kyoto, Japan. Contact: Prof. Shoichi Kawano, Chairman, Organizing Committee for the IOPB 1989 Symposium, Dept. of Botany, Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606, Japan.

July 18: National Food and Energy Council. Des Moines, IA. Contact: (202) 447-3377.

July 21-24: American Soybean Association's Soybean Expo'89. Des Moines, IA. Contact: Larry Kruger, Convention, Publication, Circulation, Sales Manager, American Soybean Association, 777 Craig Road, St. Louis, MO 63141. (314) 432-1600.

July 26: Western Extension Middle Managers Conference. Bozeman, MT. Contact: (202) 447-3377.

July 31-August 3: Second International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrichemicals. Blacksburg, VA; Virginia Tech. Contact: Dr. Chester L. Foy, (703) 231-5054.

July 31-August 4: American Dairy Science Assn. &

American Society of Animal Science Joint Annual Meeting. Lexington, KY; Civic Center. Contact: Carl Johnson, ADSA, 309 W. Clark St., Champaign, IL 61820

July 31-August 5: International Turfgrass Research Conference, Tokyo, Japan. No contact given.

August 3-5: Nat'l Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board Meeting. Ruidoso, NM. Theme: "Watershed Management and Recreational Resources." Contact: Marshall Tarkington, (202) 447-3684.

August 6-9: U.S. Feed Grains Council Membership Meeting. Chicago, IL; Westin Hotel. Contact: U.S. Feed Grains Council, (202) 789-0789.

August 6-10: 40th Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, Toronto, Canada. Contact: Louise Salmon, AIBS Meetings Manager, AIBS, 730 11th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001-4584. (202) 628-1500.

August 7: National Extension Homemakers Council. Manhattan, KS. Contact: (202) 447-3377.

August 7-10: Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Larry Harris, Department of Wildlife and Range Sciences, 118 Newins-Ziegler Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0301. (904) 392-4851.

August 13-16: 12th International Conference on Preventative and Social Medicine. Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Theme: "Nutrition in Health: Scientific Challenge for the 21st Century." Contact: (514) 874-1532 (Canada).

August 20: American Phytopathological Society Meeting. Richmond, VA. Contact: (202) 447-4423.

August 31: Purdue Swine Day. W. Lafayette, IN; Baker-Purdue Animal Sciences Center. Contact: Dale Forsyth, Dept. of Animal Sciences, Lilly Hall, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN 47907.

September 12-14: 8th International Symposium of the World Poultry Science Association. Budapest, Hungary; MTESZ Headquarters. Contact: F. Bogenfurst, Department of Animal Husbandry, University of Agricultural Sciences, H02103, Godollo, Hungary.

September 10-15: Hendricks Lecture. Miami Beach, FL. Contact: (202) 447-3656.

September 12-14: 8th International Symposium of the World Poultry Science Association. Budapest, Hungary; MTESZ Headquarters. Contact: F. Bogenfurst, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, University of Agricultural Sciences, H02103, Godollo, Hungary.

September 13-14: New England Poultry Management Conference. Mystic, CT; Mystic Hilton. Contact: New England Poultry Assn., P.O. Box 725, Augusta, ME 04330.

September 20-21: Meat Industry Research Conference. Chicago, IL; Palmer House. Contact: AMI, (703) 841-2400.

September 21-24: American Meat Institute Convention and Exposition. Chicago, IL; McCormick Place North/Chicago Hilton Hotel. Contact: AMI, (703) 841-2400.

September 24-27: National Feed Ingredients Association Annual Convention. Tucson, AZ; Loew's Ventana. Contact: National Feed Ingredients Assn., (515) 225-9611.

September 24-30: International Conference and Workshop on Global Natural Resource Monitoring and Assessments: Preparing for the 21st Century. Venice, Italy. Contact: H. Gyde Lund, USDA-Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090. (202) 475-3747.

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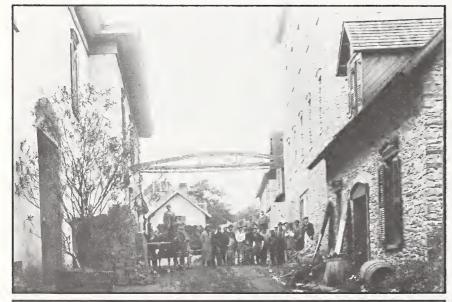
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Historic Photos Preservation





The photograph at left was taken at the Germania Wine Co., Rheins, NY, around 1907 by Geo. C. Husmann. Negative No. 10777. Below left is a photograph of workers packing peaches in Maryland at the farm of Dr. Magruder near Randle, W.A. & B.R.R.; by E.R.L., 1911. Negative No. 16738. Both are from glass negatives from the Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction Service Collection which NAL is seeking to preserve. (See article on pages 3-5 of this issue of ALIN.)

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

(ISSN 0095-2699)

provides a channel of communication to technical information specialists, librarians, extension workers, researchers, and scientists on agricultural information activities.

Joseph N. Swab, Editor.

Idalia Acosta, New Serials Editor.

Ruth Finnblade, Publications Exchange Editor.

Daniel Starr, Photographer. [(301)-344-3937]